

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO

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ORIGIN: Bulgaria

DATE DISTR 26 JAN 1952

SUBJECT Gorubso Ore Mines in the Smolyan and  
Zlatograd Areas

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1. The mines of the Soviet-Bulgarian mining association Gorubso are located along the Greek-Bulgarian border in a seven kilometer line extending from Ribnitsa (RF-5524) to the Fabrika Mine, which is approximately 15 kilometers west of Zlatograd.
2. The mine shafts are divided into three mine administrations:
  - a. First Mine Administration: located at the Borieva Reka Shaft, eight kilometers south of Madan (RF-5929), consists of the Konski Dol, Borieva, Krushev Dol, and Dolna Petrovitsa shafts; the Director of the Administration is a certain Kaulenko, a 30-year-old Soviet citizen, tall, blond, and fair-skinned; Kaulenko lived with his family in the Borieva mine area;
  - b. Second Mine Administration: located at the Fabrika Shaft, 15 kilometers southwest of Zlatograd on the Zlatograd-Madan road, consists of the Boeva, Sveti Georgi, Strashimir, Gudurska, and Fabrika shafts; the Director of the Administration is a certain Simeonov, a 40-year-old Bulgarian, heavy-set, brown hair, is to be replaced by a Soviet citizen soon; and
  - c. Third Mine Administration: located in the village of Srednogortsi (RF-5833), consists of the Sharenka, Madan, and Srednogortsi Shafts.
3. The Main Administration for all the mines is in Kurdzhali where the processing plant is located. The ore was composed of pyrite and lead. Each miner is supposed to deliver approximately 12 tons of ore during an eight-hour shift, but this quota is not rigid. Each miner is required to drill 30 holes for explosives, and then to clear away the ore loosened by the charge. The total production of all shafts during a 24-hour period is between 500 and 600 tons.

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4. The work is carried out in three 8-hour shifts, seven days a week. There are approximately 5,500 workers in the entire mine area. The technical, clerical, and labor forces of the mines are divided as follows:
  - a. First Mine Administration: 2,200 men;
  - b. Second Mine Administration: 2,100 men; and
  - c. Third Mine Administration: 1,300 men.
5. A small portion of the ore is transported by truck to the Podkova Station and from there it is taken by train to Kurdzhali. The greater portion of the ore is transported in mine cars, drawn by an engine, to Borieva, from where it is taken by aerial cable cars, capacity one ton, to Kurdzhali. Each shaft is linked to an aerial cable station by a road over which the ore is carried by truck.
6. The aerial cable line consists of 400 cars which are released 40 seconds apart. The line operates 24 hours a day, and each car makes six round trips. The total length of the aerial line is 47 kilometers. The terminal of the cable line to Kurdzhali is at the Borieva Shaft.
7. The ore is of two colors: gray, with a high percentage of lead; and yellow, with a high percentage of pyrite. The ore is usually of fine texture. The larger pieces, ranging from 10 to 200 kilograms, are broken by a stone crusher and then sent to Kurdzhali. The width of the ore veins in the mines varies from 60 centimeters to 1.80 meters. Most of the mines contain veins with few bands. If a vein runs up or down, an elevator is installed to bring the ore to the main tunnel. The Borieva Shaft has such a vein.
8. There is a total of 30 shafts in the area. Fifty testing teams, led by Soviet geologists, were working constantly looking for places to begin new shafts. A deposit was discovered near Ribnitsa, but exploitation had not begun when [REDACTED]. Processing plants are located in Madan and Srednogortsi, and the village of Srednogortsi has a gasoline dump containing 40,000 liters of gasoline. Workers' quarters have been erected in the above-mentioned villages.
9. The villages of Madan and Srednogortsi, and the plants in these villages are guarded by 50 regular militiamen armed with rifles, sub-machine guns, and pistols. The Militia has five or six light machine guns in reserve.
10. The Sharenk Shaft is located six kilometers southwest of Madan and has two main tunnels from which the ore is taken.
11. The Konski Dol Shaft is located eight kilometers south of Madan and has two main tunnels.
12. The Borieva Shaft is located 1½ kilometers from Konski Dol and has one main tunnel with numerous spurs. The ore from this shaft is carried out in mine cars drawn by small diesel engines. There is a locomotive roundhouse in Borieva which repairs the diesel engines. The mine cars have a capacity of one ton, and an engine can pull approximately 35 cars.
13. The Dolna Petrovitsa Shaft is located two kilometers east of Borieva. The ore from this shaft is transported by truck to the aerial cable line.
14. The electric power plant servicing the cable line and all the shafts is located at the Borieva Shaft, where there is also a well-equipped machine shop which handles all types of repairs for the cable line.
15. The mine administrations have the following Militia units as guards:
  - a. First Mine Administration: 60 men;
  - b. Second Mine Administration: 50 men; and

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- c. Third Mine Administration: 50 men.
16. The personnel occupying sensitive and command positions in the mines are Soviet citizens, some of whom come directly from the Soviet Union, while others were White Russians who had migrated to Bulgaria and have since become Soviet citizens and Communists.
17. The chief of transportation for all three mine administrations is a certain Turpanov, 30 years old, tall, thin, with black kinky hair. The Transport Section has a general garage in Pechinsko which serves all three administrations. The garage, which is located three kilometers east of the Borieva Shaft, is well-equipped and makes repairs on all vehicles. The garage also provides gasoline for the administrations. The Transport Section has the following automatic dump trucks and other vehicles:
  - a. Ten 7½-ton Skoda trucks;
  - b. Twenty-two 7-ton MAF diesel trucks;
  - c. Thirty 4-ton ZIS trucks;
  - d. Thirty 2½-ton Molotov trucks;
  - e. Twenty-five horse-drawn carts;
  - f. Eleven sedan automobiles; and
  - g. Two 16-passenger buses.
18. The Sveti Georgi, Borna and Strashimir Shafts are located 1½ kilometers southeast of the garage. These shafts are approximately 200 to 300 meters apart. All three shafts have one tunnel with several spurs. The ore is transported by truck to the Podkova Station, and from there by aerial car to Kurdzhali.
19. The Rudurska Shaft is located five kilometers from the Fabrika Shaft and has four main tunnels. The ore is taken by aerial cable to Borieva, and from there by aerial cable to Kurdzhali. All mines are linked by telephone; there are telephone switchboards in Borieva and in Fabrika.
20. The plant in Kurdzhali processes all the ore from the mines. A special pass is required to enter the plant. A processing plant was being constructed in Rudozha (RF-5429), and new machinery was imported from the Soviet Union.
21. There were approximately 100 Soviet engineers, technicians, and geologists in the Gerubso enterprise who worked in the plant and in the various shafts.
22. The conditions under which the miners live are extremely poor. The food and clothing are of poor quality and inadequate. In some of the shafts, the miners worked in water without boots, and there were no safety devices in any of the shafts. No medical aid was provided until a miner was no longer able to work.

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Map Series.

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1. Comment: For further information on these mines, see

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